

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) A compound motor comprising:

a plurality of motors, each motor including:

a stator having a stator winding, said stator winding of each of said motors having a different number of poles than a stator winding of each other of said motors; and

a rotor rotatably supported on said stator, said motors being arranged such that said rotor of each of said motors rotates about a common axis of rotation, said motors being arranged in a line along said common axis of rotation sequentially based on the number of poles of said stator winding of each of said motors such that said motor including said stator winding having the smallest number of poles is located at a first end of said line and such that said motor including said stator winding having the largest number of poles is located at a second end of said line opposite said first end, and said motors being connected in parallel to a common power circuit; and

a plurality of rotating members arranged adjacent to each other in an axial direction along said common axis of rotation so as to share said common axis of rotation, each of said rotating members being attached to a corresponding rotor of one of said motors; and

bearings rotatably supporting said rotating members so that said rotating members rotate independently.

Claims 11-13 (Cancelled).

14. (Previously Presented) The compound motor of claim 10, wherein said plurality of motors includes a first motor having a two-pole stator winding, a third motor having a twelve-pole stator winding, and a second motor having a six-pole stator winding and being arranged between said first motor and said third motor.

15. (Previously Presented) A vacuum pump comprising:

a casing having an inlet port and an exhaust port;
a plurality of motors arranged in said casing and connected to a common power circuit,
each motor including:
a stator having a stator winding, said stator winding of each of said motors having
a different number of poles than a stator winding of each other of said motors; and
a rotor rotatably supported on said stator, said motors being arranged such that
said rotor of each of said motors rotates about a common axis of rotation;
a plurality of rotating members arranged within said casing and adjacent to each other in
an axial direction along said common axis of rotation so as to share said common axis of
rotation, each of said rotating members being attached to a corresponding rotor of one of said
motors; and
a plurality of bearings rotatably supporting said rotating members so that said rotating
members rotate independently.

16. (Previously Presented) The vacuum pump of claim 15, wherein each of said rotating
members has a set of blades to be rotated by a corresponding one of said motors.

Claim 17 (Cancelled).

18. (Previously Presented) The vacuum pump of claim 15, wherein said motors are
connected in parallel to a common power circuit.

19. (Previously Presented) The vacuum pump of claim 15, wherein said plurality of
motors are arranged in a line along said common axis of rotation sequentially based on the
number of poles of said stator winding of each of said motors such that said motor including said
stator winding having the smallest number of poles is located at a first end of said line closest to
said inlet port of said casing and such that said motor including said stator winding having the
largest number of poles is located at a second end of said line opposite said first end and closest
to said exhaust port.

20. (Previously Presented) The vacuum pump of claim 15, wherein said vacuum pump comprises a turbo-molecular pump.

21. (Previously Presented) The vacuum pump of claim 15, wherein said plurality of motors includes a first motor having a two-pole stator winding and located closest to said inlet port of said casing, a third motor having a twelve-pole stator winding and located closest to said exhaust port of said casing, and a second motor having a six-pole stator winding and being arranged between said first motor and said third motor.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of evacuating a vessel, comprising:
arranging a plurality of motors within a casing such that the motors rotate about a common axis of rotation, each motor including a stator having a stator winding, the stator winding of each of the motors having a different number of poles than a stator winding of each other of the motors;
arranging a plurality of rotating members within the casing and adjacent to each other in an axial direction along the common axis of rotation so as share the common axis of rotation and so that the rotating members rotate independently, each of the rotating members being attached to a corresponding one of the motors;
connecting the motors in parallel to a common power circuit operable to supply an exciting current to the stator winding of each of the motors;
connecting an inlet port of the casing to the vessel to be evacuated; and
supplying an exciting current having a prescribed frequency to the motors simultaneously so as to operate the motors at different speeds based on the number of poles of the stator winding of each of the motors.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said arranging of the motors comprises arranging the motors so that a motor including a stator winding having the largest number of poles is located closest to an exhaust port of the casing so that the motor located closest to the exhaust port of the casing has the slowest rotational speed.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said supplying of the exciting current having the prescribed frequency comprises supplying an exciting current having a frequency of 500 Hz to the motors simultaneously.